

**Electric Utilities Task Group  
Monday, November 18, 2013  
Town Hall, Old Town Road  
12:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Chair Barbara MacMullan, Bill Penn, Everett Shorey and John Warfel. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32.

**1. Public Input**

There was input from the public.

**2. Approval of minutes October 21, 2013**

Mr. Penn moved to defer consideration of the October minutes to the next meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Warfel.

Ayes: 4 (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey, Warfel)      Nays: 0

**3. Deepwater Update**

Bryan Wilson was present and gave an update. Proposed modifications to Block Island Transmission System's cable landing are proceeding through the permitting process. The "Scarborough beach option" for the mainland cable landing is in the comment phase. The RI DEM will hold a public hearing in Narragansett December 11 and accept comment until December 23. The CRMC's hearing has not been scheduled but the comment period is open until December 23. The Army Corps of Engineers will accept comment until December 27, 2013. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Penn moved to restate to the Town Council the economic and environmental benefits of a cable to the mainland and to restate the same at the DEM hearing on December 11, 2013, and to reiterate support for the project.

Ayes: 3 (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey)      Nays: 0      Abstain: 1 (Warfel)

**4. BIPCO proposal for Renewable Energy (Wave) Project**

A presentation was given by John R. Miller, Executive Director of Marine Renewable Energy Collaborative, and Sander K. Cohan of Enel Green Power North America. They are in the preliminary stage of planning one-year temporary demonstration projects for a new wave energy technology. Their system is anchored underwater and can be raised and lowered or stowed. Top is about 8 feet square, footprint is of 300 by 130 (in feet) with a cable to shore. They have investors and asked for no financial contribution from BIPCo or the Town, and just want to gather generation data. Any energy produced would go to BIPCo without charge. Their goal is to get the technology into the water and see how it works. Block Island is an attractive location because FERC regulations do not allow them to displace grid power for their demonstration.

Cliff McGinnes was present and said he was not opposed in principle to accepting free power on a temporary basis while Deepwater's project moves forward. The members of the EUTG also saw no reason to oppose the project in principle at this extremely early, conceptual stage with no details provided.

**5. PUC response re: request to open docket on stand-alone cable.**

Ms. MacMullan reported the Town has the PUC's response and the PUC will not look at the issue until Deepwater is resolved. Socialization of the cable was discussed briefly. Under the current legislation, costs will be allocated according to energy usage.

At 1:30, Mr. Penn moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Shorey.

Ayes: 4 (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey, Warfel)      Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted

Fiona Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk